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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1938.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TO THE

CHAILEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

1938.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health ... W. R. Dunstan, M.B., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector ... G. Kent, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector ... J. J. K. Helmer, M.S.I.A.

To the Chairman and Members of the Chailey Rural District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present the Annual Report for the year 1938, which includes the Report of the Sanitary Inspector, and follows in its arrangement Circular 1728 of the Ministry of Health.

The estimated increase in population of the district is 260; the birth-rate is low (12·7 per 1,000); and the death-rate very low. Maternal mortality gives one death from puerperal causes. The infant mortality rate yields the low figure 9·3 per 1,000 births. Notifications of Infectious Disease are exceptionally low, namely 21.

Much of the matter in the Report has been prepared by the Chief Sanitary Inspector (Mr. G. Kent).

I am greatly indebted for valuable assistance to both Mr. Kent and Mr. Helmer (Additional Sanitary Inspector).

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

W. R. DUNSTAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL STAFF.

Medical Superintendent	Dr. D. H. Richards
Matron	Miss A. J. Glynn
Staff Nurse	Miss Kirwan
Assistant Nurse	Miss Hearn

Area (in acres)	66,014
Population (estimated)...	17,400
Number of inhabited houses	5,570
Rateable Value	£135,824
Sum represented by one penny rate	£535

Industries: Agriculture; Cement works and brickfields.

There is very little unemployment in the area.

STATISTICS.

Live Births.

	Total.	M.	F.	
Legitimate...	203	113	90	Birth Rate, 12·7
Illegitimate	13	7	6	
	216	120	96	
Still Births ...	6	3	3	Rate per 1,000 Births, 27·0
Deaths	213	90	123	Death Rate (corrected) 9·9

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 Births.
Puerperal Sepsis	0	0
Other Puerperal Causes.	0	0
	0	0

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	9·3
Legitimate ,, ,, legitimate births ...	9·9
Illegitimate ,, ,, illegitimate ,, ...	0

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	41
,, ,, Measles (all ages)	0
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	0
,, ,, Diarrhœa (under 2 years) ...	0

DEATHS.

The causes of deaths were as follows—

Diphtheria	1
Influenza	4
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	8
Other Tuberculosis	2
Cancer	41
Diabetes...	2
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	11
Heart Disease	58
Aneurysm	1
Other Circulatory Diseases	15
Bronchitis	5
Pneumonia (all forms)...	5
Peptic Ulcer	2
Appendicitis	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	2
Other Diseases of Liver	2
Other Digestive Diseases	9
Nephritis (Acute and Chronic)	8
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, &c.	2
Senility	6
Suicide	3
Other Violence	8
Other defined diseases...	17
TOTAL	213

HEALTH SERVICES.

(*a*) Laboratory Facilities.

(1) Clinical Research Association (swab, sputa).

(2) Dr. S. Allinson Woodhead, Mountfield House, Lewes (milk and water samples).

(*b*) Ambulance Facilities.

Lewes Corporation Ambulance (by arrangement). This service is adequate.

(*c*) Nursing in the Home.

Nurses are provided in cases of severe infectious illness occurring in necessitous families.

(*d*) Clinic and Treatment Centres.

(1) Light Clinic, Castlegate (E.S.C.C.).

(2) Orthopædic Clinic, Castlegate (E.S.C.C.).

(3) Tuberculosis Clinic, Castlegate (E.S.C.C.).

(4) Lewes School Clinic (Lewes Education Committee). Children attending elementary schools within the area are seen at this Clinic by arrangement with the Committees concerned.

(*e*) Hospitals.

(1) *Fever.* Chailey Isolation Hospital (Chailey R.D.C).

(2) *Smallpox.* Sedgebrook Hospital, Plumpton (District Committee).

(3) *Tuberculosis.* Darvell Hall Sanatorium (E.S.C.C.).

(4) *Non-Infectious Illness.* Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Water.

There have been no new sources of public water supply provided during the year.

Extensions of the Council's water main during the year amount to some 2¾ miles of new main which includes extensions at Cinder Hill and Chailey Lane, in the Parish of Chailey; Gallybird Road, Mill Lane and Church Road, in the Parish of Barcombe; Newick Housing Site; St. Helen Road, in the Parish of Plumpton; and East Chiltington Lane.

Close co-operation exists between the Water Engineer (Mr. R. P. Cheale) and the Health Department regarding the quality and purity of the water, and monthly samples are submitted for bacteriological examination.

The following is the Analyst's report for November, 1938 :—

Taken from the tap at The Cottage, Allington Crescent, Newick.

The sample on arrival had the following characteristics and gave the appended results on bacteriological examination :

Colour	None
Smell	None
Sediment	None

The organisms per ml. which grew on nutrient Agar in three days at room temperature under aerobic conditions and were then visible to the naked eye as colonies numbered 5.

On Agar at blood temperature and under aerobic conditions two colonies were noticed after two days' incubation.

Examination for organisms of the Coli group gave entirely negative results in 100 ml.

Report.

This water is very satisfactory bacteriologically and as submitted it is perfectly safe for drinking purposes.

Constant inspection of other sources of water supply is maintained and 76 samples of water from private and public wells were submitted for analysis, with the following results :—

Samples of Rainwater.

No. found to be satisfactory	2
No. found to be unfit for drinking purposes	1

Samples taken from Public Main.

No. found to be satisfactory	2
No. found to be unfit for drinking purposes	Nil

Samples taken from New Wells.

No. found to be satisfactory	5
No. found to be unfit for drinking purposes	4

Samples taken from Old Wells.

No. found to be satisfactory	22
No. found to be unfit for drinking purposes	40
	76

Ringmer Water Supply.

A Survey of the water supplies to the Parish of Ringmer was carried out by the Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector during the year and a detailed report on the findings was presented to the Council in September. The report concluded as follows :—

" From the above facts there is sufficient evidence to show that
" Ringmer has need of a public supply and we recommend the
" Council to consider the question of extending their mains to
" serve this parish."

Drainage and Sewerage.

There have been no sewer extensions during the year.

The proposed schemes (1) for the sewering and treatment of sewerage for Ditchling and neighbouring parishes, and (2) for the sewering and treatment of sewerage for Kingston, Rodmell and Iford in conjunction with the Peacehaven scheme, have received further consideration.

Rivers and Streams.

Attention is being given to the pollution of streams by drain discharges from dwelling houses and farm buildings.

Closet Accommodation.

There are no closely built up areas in the district where the conservancy system remains. Among rural workers' cottages pail closets predominate. Some privies still exist, but are being systematically eliminated.

Public Cleansing.

A once fortnightly collection of house refuse throughout the district is maintained by means of two 10-cubic yard motor vehicles. The additional motor vehicle now replaces one horse-drawn vehicle previously employed.

Cesspool Emptying Service.

This service continues to operate satisfactorily. The demand for the use of the machine is still increasing.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area. (Report by the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. G. Kent).

Number of House Inspections under Housing Regulations ...	69
Other Inspections of Houses not included above	210
Number of Visits in connection with Nuisances	30
,, ,, ,, to Slaughter-houses and Butcher Shops ...	509
,, ,, ,, to Cowstalls and Dairies	281
,, ,, ,, *re* Drainage	134
Number of Drains tested	62
,, ,, Visits *re* Water Supply	110
,, ,, Water Samples taken for analysis	76
,, ,, Visits *re* Infectious Diseases	32
,, ,, Rooms fumigated	17
,, ,, Visits to Sewage Outfall Works and Sewers ...	56
,, ,, Visits to Refuse Tips	36
,, ,, Visits under Petroleum Acts	17
,, ,, Visits *re* Inspection of Schools	21
,, ,, Visits under Shops Act, 1936	102
,, ,, Visits under Factory and Workshops Acts ...	107
,, ,, Miscellaneous Visits	66

Shops.

A survey of all the shops in the district was completed during the year. As a result of which eight notices were served under the Shops Act, 1936.

Smoke Abatement.

There have been no complaints of smoke nuisance during the year.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

There were no cases of infestation discovered in Council houses or private houses.

Where infestation is discovered—disinfestation is carried out by the Council by spraying and chemical fumigants.

In certain cases inspection of furniture and the dwelling houses of applicants for Council houses is carried out before removal.

SCHOOLS.

Further inspections of schools were made by the Medical Officer of Health, accompanied by the Senior Sanitary Inspector. Some of the defects notified to School Managers were remedied.

HOUSING.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :—

(1) (*a*) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 279

(*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 321

(2) (*a*) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 69

(*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 83

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 17

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 40

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 23

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:—

(*a*) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 3

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—

(*a*) By Owners 3

(*b*) By Local Authority in default of owners ... Nil

(3) Number of dwelling houses acquired and subsequently rendered fit by the Local Authority ... Nil

(*b*) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 2

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—

(*a*) By Owners ... ... Nil

(*b*) By Local Authority in default of owners ... Nil

(*c*) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 1

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ... Nil

(*d*) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... Nil

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit 1

4. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV. Overcrowding.

(*a*) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 7

(2) Number of families dwelling therein 7

(3) Number of persons dwelling therein 51

(*b*) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... ... Nil

(*c*) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 4

(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases... ... 22

(*d*) Number of Houses which again became overcrowded after Local Authority had taken steps to abate overcrowding ... ... Nil

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INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk

Routine inspection of cowstalls made excellent progress during the year, 281 inspections being recorded. Forty-one cowstalls and dairies were either re-built or re-conditioned and a good programme of reconstructions is in hand.

Great attention is being paid to clean milk methods and it was found necessary to take legal proceedings against one milk producer who refused to respond to informal requests in improve his methods of production. A conviction on three accounts was obtained against him.

Meat and Other Foods.

There are 19 slaughter houses in the district, which are scattered over a considerable area. Three of these are engaged in the wholesale trade, the remainder being attached to local butcher shops, consequently meat inspection claims a large proportion of the time of the department and entails a great amount of travelling.

The following carcases, organs and joints were found to be unfit for human consumption, and were dealt with accordingly:—

35	Bovine Carcases and Organs	Tuberculosis Generalised.
1	,, ,, ,, ,,	Emaciation and Dropsy.
2	,, ,, ,, ,,	Extensive Bruising.
1	,, ,, ,, ,,	General Oedema.
2	Hindquarters of Beef... ...	Tuberculosis.
1	,, ,, ...	Abscess.
9	Forequarters of Beef	Tuberculosis.
2	Calves' Carcases and Organs	Generalised Tuberculosis.
1	,, ,, ,,	Immature.
50	Bovine Lungs	Tuberculosis.
2	,, ,, ...	Congestion.
13	,, Livers	Tuberculosis.
6	,, ,, ...	Abscess.
2	,, ,, ...	Fatty Infiltration.
3	,, ,, ...	Angioma.
2	,, ,, ...	Flukes.
19	,, Mesenteries	Tuberculosis.
2	,, Heads and Tongues	Antinomycosis.
1	,, Head...	Abscess.
13	Pigs' Carcases and Organs	Tuberculosis Generalised.
18	,, Plucks	Tuberculosis.
44	,, Heads	,,
4	Forequarters of Pork... ...	,,
2	Hindquarters of Pork... ...	,,
1	Pig's Carcase and Organs ...	Pyaemia.
1	,, ,, ,, ...	Swine Erysipelas.
1	,, ,, ,, ...	Tuberculosis with Emaciation.

Adulteration.

The following samples were taken by the East Sussex County Council within the district :—

Milks 13, of which 11 were correct and 2 incorrect.

Sweets 1, correct.

Tinned Milk 1, correct.

Tinned Cream 1, correct.

Coffee 2, correct.

Coffee and Chicory 1, correct.

No proceedings were instituted in respect of these samples.

Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.

Mountfield House Laboratory (Dr. S. Allinson Woodhead, Public Analyst). Examination of all suspected foods submitted.

Nutrition.

A register of all families with children attending the elementary schools has been prepared for use in connection with the County Council's Meals Scheme.

Shellfish (Molluscan).

It was not considered necessary to take any action in relation to shellfish.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The prevalence of infectious disease in the district during 1938 was low; apart from some intermittent Scarlet Fever. The diseases that occurred were mild in character and uncomplicated. Measles serum has not been utilised. A circular was issued to all Medical Practitioners within the district informing them that material for immunisation against Diphtheria and Schick testing would be supplied on request.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES, 1938.
(Other than Tuberculosis).

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	9	9	—
Diphtheria	3*	3	1
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1	1	—
Pneumonia	4	—	—
Erysipelas	2	2	—

* One case found to be negative on swab examination.

AGE INCIDENCE.

Age ...	0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65-
Cases ...	0	0	1	0	1	7	3	2	1	2	2	0

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

(1) Public Health Act, 1935. Section 66.

No action.

Cases of blindness are notified to the Voluntary Society for the Care of the Blind.

TUBERCULOSIS.

(1) Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925

No action was taken under these Regulations.

(2) Public Health Act, 1925. Section 62.

(3) Public Health Act, 1936. Section 172.

No action was taken under these Sections.

There were no non-notified tuberculosis deaths.

The notification of tuberculosis in the area appears to be efficient.

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1937.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
15	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
25	3	3	1	—	1	1	—	1
35	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	2	1	—	—	—	2	—	—
55	1	1	—	—	—	3	—	—
65 and upwards ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	8	7	2	1	2	6	—	2

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers prosecuted (4)
Factories ... ... (Including Factory Laundries)	39	3	—
Workshops ... ... (including Workshop Laundries)	68	1	—
Workplaces ... ... (Other than Outworkers' premises)	—	—	—
Total	107	4	—

2.—Defects Found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars	Number of Defects			Number of offences in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—				
Want of Cleanliness	2	2		
Want of Ventilation				
Overcrowding				
Want of drainage of floors ...				
Other nuisances	—	—		
Sanitary accommodation—				
Insufficient				
Unsuitable or defective ...	1	1		
Not separate for sexes ...				
Offences under the Factory and Workshops Acts :—				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)				
Other offences ... ... (Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921.)	1	1		
Total	4	4	—	—

Work of erecting the necessary means of escape in case of fire is in hand in compliance with a notice served last year.

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